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and yet he did for the southern half of the continent what Bolivar did for the northern half. Our ignorance of him is due to the fact that "Unlike his predecessors and colleagues, he did not concern himself with political ambitions". "He had none of the brilliantly attractive qualities, none of the eloquence or charm of most South American leaders; he had a horror of display, and made but one speech in all his life" (p. 98). In the period following the War of Emancipation, one cannot help admiring the skill with which Mr. Dawson has unraveled the tangled skein of revolution and counter-revolution. The account of the growth and development of Argentina is especially illuminative, and has that graphic quality which comes from personal intercourse with the leaders in the state. After reading the six chapters devoted to Uruguay, chapters filled with incessant strife between *blancos* and *colorados*, one marvels at the unreasonableness of it all. Apparently the best explanation that can be offered is simply human greed and selfishness. "As is usual in South America, the dominant party split into factions, led by ambitious chiefs" (p. 273), and the fighting began all over again. In the part devoted to Brazil Mr. Dawson is at his best. He is thoroughly familiar with the subject, and treats it with marked admiration. He even ventures to assert that Brazil "is destined within the next two centuries to support the largest population of any of the great political divisions of the globe" (p. 289).

One has constantly to make due allowance for Mr. Dawson's enthusiasm and for his fondness for the superlative, but rarely does one meet with such an able exposition of South American politics. The second volume will be welcomed with interest. HIRAM BINGHAM.

Texas: a Contest of Civilizations. By GEORGE P. GARRISON. (Boston and New York: Houghton, Mifflin, and Company. 1903. Pp. vii, 320.)

THE general plan and method of the "American Commonwealths" series, to which this volume belongs, are too familiar to need explanation. The appearance of new books belonging to this series is a matter of something more than local interest, since they are intended for a larger class of readers than are other books on state history, and for that reason are apt to be accepted at home and abroad as the standard accounts of the growth of the different states and the contributions they have made to our national life. Dr. Garrison has for several years been professor of history in the University of Texas, and has devoted much attention to the history of that state. He is, therefore, thoroughly qualified to write authoritatively on the subject to which this book is devoted. As is stated in the preface, the book "is not intended for a history of Texas", but rather "a study" based on the history of that state. Such a study involves more or less extensive investigation into the history of Spain, France, England, Mexico, and the United States. This work seems to have been carefully done by Professor Garrison, since one of the strongest features of his book is the skilful presentation of these necessary European connections.

The three types of Spanish settlements in Texas — ecclesiastical, military, and civil — are also treated with skill. The author very properly attributes the failure of the Spaniards in their efforts to occupy Texas to the expenditure of energy on the first two of these colonial types to the neglect of the third. He says that "While upwards of twenty-five missions and presidios were founded first and last on Texas soil, there were, when the Anglo-Americans began to pour in, but three centres of Spanish population between the Sabine and the Rio Grande: San Antonio, Goliad, and Nacogdoches." The chapter on "The Beginnings of San Antonio" is so replete with interest that, although the author says it was the most important of the three settlements, the reader cannot help regretting that the history of the other two early centers of Spanish population were not given a similar treatment.

The complication over the adjustment of the boundary line between the French province of Louisiana and the Spanish province of Texas afforded an occasion for many plots and counter-plots on the part of the officers of the two nations in the New World. The question was finally settled by the surrender of western Louisiana to Spain in 1762. The author gives in this connection an interesting account of the career of Saint-Denis, that master of intrigue whose true place in history has puzzled many historians of the Old Southwest.

The discussion of the "Anglo-American Invasions" constitutes one of the most interesting chapters in the book. The first recorded expedition into Texas by citizens of the United States was led by Philip Nolan between 1799 and 1801. The author says that it has been surmised that President Jefferson had a hand in this matter. The Jefferson manuscripts in the Department of State at Washington contain nothing to substantiate such a conjecture. Some of the letters in this collection from William Dunbar of the Mississippi Territory refer to Nolan as a man well versed in the natural history of the remote west. Mr. Jefferson seems to have been interested in Nolan only because of the information he was capable of imparting relative to the nature and habits of mustang ponies, the sign language of the Indians, and subjects of a similar nature. The last filibustering expedition was made in 1819 under the leadership of James Long, a merchant of Natchez. After the separation of Mexico from Spain in 1821 the Anglo-Americans adopted the more effective method of peaceful occupation. The filibuster gave way to the colonist. The most important colony was established by Stephen Austin. In speaking of this colony, the author says that "the revolution of 1836, annexation, the Mexican war, the acquisitions made by the treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, and the marvelous development of Texas and California" constitute a "chain of events" which have "followed, 'as the night the day', the work planned and begun by Moses Austin and carried out by his son Stephen"

The Fredonian war, which to the superficial student was merely a fiasco, is shown by Professor Garrison to occupy a significant place in Texas history, since it was "the first violent clash between the Mexicans

and the colonists" from the United States, and marked the beginning of the development which culminated in the siege of the Alamo and the battle of San Jacinto. The book presents a clear discussion of the causes of the Revolution and of the various plans of government that were advocated during this interesting period of Texas history. The account of the siege of the Alamo is graphic and stirring. The experience of the Republic and the events leading to annexation are also succinctly stated. The error made by those people who think that "the colonization of Texas and the revolution was the work of the 'slavocracy'" is very properly pointed out by Professor Garrison.

The author discusses in a very satisfactory way the educational and economic progress of Texas, but, strange to say, has very little to say about the religious development of the state. The importance of this subject demands that it should have more space than is given it in this book. The closing chapter, on "The Texas of To day", is replete with interesting information skilfully presented, and makes a very satisfactory conclusion to this valuable contribution to American history.

FRANKLIN L. RILEY.

Admiral Porter. By JAMES RUSSELL SOLEY, formerly Assistant Secretary of the Navy. [Great Commanders Series.] (New York: D. Appleton and Company, 1903. Pp. x, 499.)

MR. JAMES RUSSELL SOLEY'S long-expected life of Admiral Porter has finally appeared and fulfilled all the expectations based on the character of the subject and the known ability and special knowledge of the author.

Porter was a great sea-officer; it is not too much to say, one of the greatest. If there is anything in heredity, he was a marked instance. Begotten in time of war, his qualities were naturally such as should have come from such a father as was the famous captain of the frigate *Essex*, with whose great successes in the Pacific his birth was coincident. The boy was bred in an atmosphere steeped with the romance of the sea, and his later life was but a continuation of as picturesque and romanceful a history as the sea produced in the last century. One must hark back to Elizabethan days for a parallel to the lives of this remarkable father and son. The father left the service through pique on account of what he regarded an unjust court-martial, the result of taking into his own hands the punishment of the authorities of a little town in Porto Rico for maltreating one of his officers who had landed in search of pirates. He was offered and accepted the command of the naval force of Mexico, then establishing her independence of Spain, and carried with him young David, then nearly thirteen, as a midshipman. The boy saw in this capacity three years of wild adventure and a great deal of fighting under the immediate command of his cousin David H. Porter, who had also taken service under the Mexican government. But his career as a Mexican naval officer was closed in the desperate action fought by the brig *Guerrero* off Havana with the Spanish frigate *Lealtad*, in which his